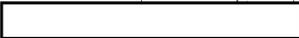


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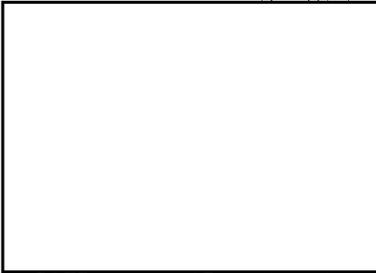
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Gdansk Polytechnical College: Faculties/College Living
Conditions/Military Training/Political Education
(Attitudes of Two First-Year Students)



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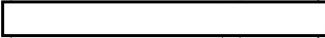
Administration

2. "The rector of the Polytechnikum is Professor (fnu) Szenwalski. The pro-rector for scientific and teaching matters is Professor (fnu) Kopecki.

Faculties

3. "The Polytechnikum has eight faculties:
- (a) Architecture - Training engineers for two specialties: Architecture proper, and town and village planning.
 - (b) Construction - Sections on the construction of residential houses and public buildings, industrial construction, etc.
 - (c) Hydraulic Constructions - Two sections: geology, and the construction of hydro-power stations, ports, the regulation of rivers, etc.
 - (d) Chemistry - Three sections: organic, inorganic and the chemistry of food products
 - (e) Shipbuilding
 - (f) Electricity
 - (g) Mathematics and Physics
 - (h) Mechanics.

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- 2 -

4. "The outstanding instructors are Professor (fnu) Piekara and Professor (fnu) Adamczewski, who are both scientists of world renown. The specialty of both is physics. Research in nuclear fission is conducted under their guidance. Another excellent instructor is Professor (fnu) Otto whose subject is geometry.
5. "In the first year of the hydraulic construction faculty the main subjects are:
 Geodesy - Taught by Professor (fnu) Kulakowski
 Mathematics - Chair of Professor (fnu) Pawelski but taught by Magister (M.Sc.) (fnu) Galuszkowna. She is a young pupil of Professor Kulakowski, a good specialist but without teaching experience.
 Geology - Taught by a Lithuanian, Professor (fnu) Beniusys, who knows his subject well but who appears afraid of everything and therefore is not very respected.
 Statics - Taught by a young scientist of 28 (name forgotten) who got his doctorate at the same College three years ago (1950). The dean of the faculty is Professor (fnu) Pazdro whose specialty is geology.
6. "Professor Kulakowski, who holds the Chair of Geodesy, is very popular among the students. He is also the second pro-rector of the College. In that post he is responsible for political education, hence a CP member, but the young people all like him and he is their greatest friend at college. He always helps them, not only in their studies but even financially. Whenever he sees a student wearing old rags, he asks him to his house and gives him a suit, an overcoat, etc. It must be added that he can afford this better than most for he, or rather his post, brings a large income. The authorities often call on him to give his expert opinion on various geodetic constructions. He has six or seven assistants. For one expert opinion the Geodesy Department gets very large fees - up to 20,000-30,000 zl.
7. "Generally, the relations between students and professors are good. The professors keep to their subjects and away from politics as much as possible. In most cases the students do not even know whether a professor is a CP member. Probably most of them have been made to join, for the CP collects prominent people. If so, the professors appear to regard such membership as a mere formality and the CP, on its side, does not bother them. The students have confidence in most of their teachers. To our knowledge, no student has come into political trouble through the fault of a professor. On the contrary, the professors have trouble with students who are CP or ZMP activists. In the universities and colleges, as everywhere else, such activists are favoured by the CP. But if a professor really wants to fail such an activist, most of whom never study seriously but try to muddle through on political merits, he does so by examining him in front of a commission which includes a representative of the rector and several delegates of the ZMP. When the ignorance of the activist has been plainly demonstrated at such an examination, even the CP no longer protests on his behalf.
8. "In the scholastic year 1952-1953 the length of the course at the Gdansk Polytechnical College was extended from three to four years. The same happened at all institutes of higher education. After four years of studies the graduates get the title of engineer. Should they wish to study for another two years, they can get the scientific degree of magister (M.Sc.). A magister can write a scientific work and earn the degree of candidate of (physical, mathematical, etc.) sciences. In comparison to ordinary students, post-graduate students get large fellowships: the magister gets 450-600 zl. and the fellowship of a candidate 300 zl. (per month).

College Living Conditions

9. "We both lived at an academic hostel. In Gdansk there are five such hostels for men and one for women. The hostels are all built on the same pattern. The rooms are comparatively small (4 m x 5 m) and accommodate four, more often five, people each. The beds are built-in, one on top of the other. The rest of the furniture consists of one table, two chairs, a small cupboard and, in every room without exception, the loudspeaker of the house radio center. Fortunately this can be turned off. There is no running water in the rooms. The students wash under taps in a common washing room. There is no opportunity for concentration in such a room. Nor is this possible in the assembly room or lounge of the hostel; they are practically always reserved for some sort of compulsory meeting. The only places where a student can study in peace are the university libraries or the public libraries of the town.

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- 3 -

10. "The hostels have no kitchens, dining rooms or canteens. The students eat at the canteen in the main building of the College, where dinner is served once daily. No breakfasts or suppers can be obtained. For the dinner a student pays 60 zl. monthly. At dinner vegetable soup is served with rye bread of which there is an unlimited supply. The bread is cut in slices and stands on the tables in baskets. One can take as many slices as one likes. A second or even third helping of soup may be obtained too. Of the main dish one gets one helping only of porridge, peas, or potatoes, or spaghetti; the latter is rarely served and then with a thick sauce in which fortunate persons sometimes find a small piece of meat. Twice, sometimes three times, weekly the main dish is boiled fish with potatoes.
11. "Most of the students fill their pockets with bread from the canteen when they eat their dinner and divide it in two at home: half for supper and half for breakfast the next morning. With this bread they drink water, sometimes beer. Such is their daily food. Students do not drink milk; in order to get milk one has to line up at 5:30 a.m. at a milk shop and queue at least one hour until the shop is opened. It is, of course, possible to get a glass of milk and a wheaten bun with butter at the so-called 'milk bars' but that is a luxury which a student cannot afford more than perhaps four or five times monthly.
12. "The full scholarship of a student is 260 zl. per month. A partial scholarship is 210 zl. A student is entitled to a scholarship only when the combined income of his family does not exceed 150 zl. per head per month. Many sons of better class families have to take a roundabout way to gain admission to institutes of higher education. For example, the son of an administrative railway employee was graduated from secondary school in 1951. He applied for admission to the Gdansk Polytechnical College, but was refused 'for lack of vacancies'. He got work as an unskilled laborer in the Paris Commune Shipyard in Gdynia. He was able the next year to gain admission to the college as a 'worker'.
- Military Training
13. "In 1951 military training for students was experimentally introduced at several institutes of higher education. Since the academic year of 1952 such training has been made compulsory at all universities, academies, polytechnical colleges and other colleges, without exception.
14. "In the Polytechnical College at Gdansk this training was introduced in the academic year 1952-1953. The program is that of a normal officers' school. The director of 'studies' is Colonel (fnu) Grzenia-Romanowski. At the first lecture in the beginning of the 1952-53 year this colonel told the students to remember that henceforth they were military men and future officers. In view of this they were henceforth subordinated first to him and only then to the rector of the college, in their scientific training. It is a fact that Colonel Grzenia-Romanowski is quite independent of the rector in his activities. He has the power to take every disciplinary measure he sees fit, including the dismissal of a student from the college.
15. "One such dismissal took place early in 1953 when a first-year student of the hydraulic construction faculty was expelled for a 'breach of military discipline'. This breach was that the student had asked the lieutenant commanding his company to give him leave to go home at 6 p.m. The student, who lived in the town with his mother and sister, had brought theater tickets for that evening for his family and an aunt from the provinces who was visiting them. The lieutenant did not give him leave but sent him to Colonel Grzenia-Romanowski who said that such things were not his business and sent him back to the lieutenant. In the end the student went home without permission. The next morning he was summoned to Colonel Grzenia-Romanowski who told him that he no longer was to look for anything at the college. A week later the student got a summons to present himself for military service as a private in a provincial regiment.
16. "Grzenia-Romanowski himself is subordinated directly only to the commander of the local military district. We know that this is true in Gdansk but cannot say whether the same situation exists in the other colleges of Poland. In Poland the military trainees at the universities and colleges are now called 'Rokosovski's Second Army'; 150,000 students are trained yearly and about 30,000 new officers are thus made available every year.
17. "The military training is concentrated in one day of the week and takes place from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., often 10 p.m. Half this time is devoted to theoretical subjects and the other

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25X1

- 4 -

half to practical exercises and drill. Early in the morning of this day the students of a certain faculty have to present themselves at the college. There they get military uniforms and equipment which is stored in the cellar. There is no order in the distribution of these things and every week the student gets different clothes. The worst part is that every week they get different boots too which is a great bother in marching and drill. The students try to exchange the boots among themselves but this is not easy when 300-350 people must dress in a small room in ten minutes.

18. "Regardless of its number of students each faculty is called a company for military purposes. The companies are divided into squads (druziny) and platoons (plutony). The leader of the practical exercises (drill, etc) is Lieutenant (fnu) Zelichowski.
19. "The military instructors are officers of the regular army. The students do not know their names as these are considered a military secret. Of course, in the smaller towns such as Gdansk and Gdynia where many people know each other, the students end up by learning the names of the officers if they are interested. However, we, as first-year students, did not know the names of our instructors and made no efforts to find out.
20. "In the first year the following subjects are taught:

Organization of the Army
Tactics
Chemical Training
Rifle Training
Drill
Topography
Field Manual
Communication Service (liaison)
Arms and their construction

Such subjects as Organization of the Army, Tactics, Arms and Communications are secret; it is strictly forbidden to take home any notes one may have taken during the lectures. Such notes have to be left in a special cupboard at the college. As far as the students can judge, they feel they are not taught anything particularly secret at the lectures. They consider the secrecy more a pedagogical measure. As regards organization of the army, for instance, they are taught in their first term that the Polish Army uses a so-called 'system of threes'; every platoon has three squads; a company has three platoons; a regiment has three companies, etc. The entire territory of Poland is divided into six military districts which in time of war make up five fronts. In peace time a military district must have at its disposal the quantity of men and material required for the organization of a front. In principle the future C-in-C of a front is the present commander of the military district.

21. "The course of tuition of the future officers is planned so they will pass through the entire program during their four years of study at the college or university. Every summer the students serve one month with some regiment for practical training. After the final examinations but before getting their diplomas the students do three months service with a regiment and then, together with the diploma of engineer, they get the commission of a lieutenant (or sub-lieutenant, depending on their success in their studies). In autumn 53 there were rumours that the course of tuition in the institutes of higher education would be extended to five years, as in the USSR. In that event the military training would be extended to five years too.
22. "Every university and college has its military specialty. Thus, the specialty of the Polytechnical College in Gdansk is the communication service (liaison). The main stress in training is laid on this subject. The specialty of the Higher Pedagogical College in Gdansk is infantry; that of the Medical College in Gdansk is the medical service. The polytechnical College in Warsaw specializes in tanks.
23. "Certain emphasis is also laid on political education. There are rumours that in future this subject will be taught entirely under the authority of the officer responsible for military training. At the Gdansk Polytechnical College this subject is taught by Colonel Grzenia-Romanowski himself. His method is to give the students a number of theses or definitions on a certain subject which they must then study and discourse upon in seminars.

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- 5 -

An example of such a thesis is: 'The Soviet Army is the strongest army in the world. Why?' The question has to be answered from the organizational point of view, from the ideological point of view (it is the strongest because it is based on the most progressive scientific theory, Marxism-Leninism) etc.

Political Education

24. "Theoretically political education is considered one of the most important subjects in all educational establishments, from the elementary school to the university. At the universities, including the Polytechnical College in Gdansk, one of the pro-rectors is specially detailed to supervise the teaching of this subject. At the Technical College this pro-rector is Professor Kulaowski. He is supposed to be helped by the CP cells at the college and the ZMP. Moreover, the local district CP committee of the town of Gdansk, takes a lively interest in the political instruction and sends many directives to the schools and colleges.

25. "Actually the political studies are poorly organized [but see paragraph 23] and there is a shortage of teachers of Marxism-Leninism. In most cases this subject is not taught by professors or qualified lecturers but by people without academic degree who have been put through short-term CP courses. The students of the first year at the hydraulic constructions faculty are taught Marxism-Leninism by a woman [redacted] who knows little on the subject and has no teaching abilities. For two hours weekly she lectures and for one hour weekly the students meet in a seminar.

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